

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 16714 131049Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 EA-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

AID-05 ICA-11 AGRE-00 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00

ACDA-12 L-03 NSC-05 NRC-05 OES-09 SOE-02 DODE-00

DOE-15 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 PM-05 SAS-02 CAB-02

DOTE-00 FAA-00 AF-10 ARA-11 NEA-10 OMB-01 /181 W

-----106502 141744Z /11

R 131036Z SEP 78

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1811

INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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NESCO, FODAG, USIAEA, UNIDO, ICAO

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, GW, FR

SUBJECT: GENEVA GROUP: FRENCH LANGUAGE

REF: A) BONN 12302, B) STATE 162879

L. SCHMITZ OF FRG FONOFF (SEE REF A) INFORMED EMBOFF

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SEPTEMBER 12 THAT FRG IS QUITE DISTURBED ABOUT FRENCH
EFFORTS TO GET FRENCH LANGUAGE ADOPTED AS WORKING LAN-
GUAGE IN GENEVA GROUP. (SEE REF B, PARA 9.)

SCHMITZ SAID THE FRENCH ARE OFFERING TO PAY THE COSTS
FOR 1979 AND WANT TO DISCUSS PERMANENT FUNDING AT
FEBRUARY 1979 GG MEETING.

2. SCHMITZ READ TO EMBOFF INTERNAL FRG MEMO TO ITS GENEVA REP STATING QUITE BLUNTLY THAT ADOPTION OF FRENCH PROPOSAL WOULD WREAK HAVOC WITH HITHERTO INFORMAL NATURE OF GENEVA GROUP MODUS OPERANDI.

3. MEMO POINTS OUT THAT GG HAS BEEN OPERATING SATISFACTORILY SINCE 1964 WITH NO SECRETARIAT AND WITH US AND UK CO-CHAIRMEN FURNISHING ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT GRATIS. IF FRENCH BECAME A WORKING LANGUAGE, HOWEVER, SUCH INFORMAL PROCEDURES WOULD HAVE TO BE ABANDONED. THE CO-CHAIRMEN WOULD HAVE TO REQUEST REIMBURSEMENT OF COSTS OF THEIR ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT. EVENTUALLY THIS ARRANGEMENT WOULD BE REPLACED WITH A FORMAL SECRETARIAT, WHICH WOULD NOT ONLY BE COSTLY, BUT WOULD MAKE THE WHOLE OPERATION MORE CUMBERSOME AND PROBABLY LESS EFFECTIVE.

4. SCHMITZ CONCLUDED BY URGING THAT THE CO-CHAIRMEN CONSULT WITH OTHER MEMBERS AND, IF, AS HE ANTICIPATES, THERE IS BROAD OPPOSITION TO THE FRENCH INITIATIVE, THAT WE TAKE DECISIVE STEPS TO SCUTTLE IT AT THE NEXT GG MEETING.

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